mitted to the Committee of Taste, who would no doubt duly consider them. What we wish to shew by these memoranda is simply, that a desire for the improvemeot and adornment of the metropolis is manifesting itself extensively. A good spirit has been awakened, and we hope, will not be allowed to sleep again.

What may be achieved in a short time may be strikingly illustrated by reference to the extraordinary works executed in Munich through the genius, liberality, and energy of the present King of Bavaria. Within the last thirty years the aspect of the city has been changed; a crowd of wonderful buildings has been raised, and a new school of artists created. The Glyptotheca, commenced in 1816, and finished in 1830, is 220 feet square. The Pinacotheca, completed six years later, is above 500 feet long; and (not to speak of the Basilica of St. Boniface, the church of All-Saints, and numerous other monuments), the Walhalla, near Ratisbon, just now finished, has sprung, "like an exhalation," from the rock on which it is reared, to immortalize its projector. Munich has become one of the most extraordinary capitals in Europe, and strangers from all countries annually flock there to admire its beauties, and wonder at the effect which may be produced by one powerful mind. Not satisfied with merely raising fine buildings, Lewis of Bavaria has sought to nationalize the fine arts, and bring them into the houses of his people for their enjoyment. Museums have been arranged to convey clearly a history of the arts, and each of his buildings is intended to illustrate some particular epoch. The means of education in art are afforded to all, and every endeavour is being made to develop to the utmost the national resources in this respect. The success with which the king's endeavours have been crowned is to be attributed greatly to the position which he has given to artists in his dominion, and the elevation of character which it has caused. He has conferred prerogatives on genius; he has admitted that the man who is capable of affording instruction or wholesome delight to a nation, who expresses noble thoughts whether with the pen, the pencil, or the chisel, is fit society for the highest, and deserves all the rewards a country can bestow. This artist-king has shewn there is another road to the Temple of Fame besides that over dying bodies in the field of battle, and has earned for himself a niche in it next to those occupied by Pericles and Augustus.

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF LONDON.—The annual accounts of the Chamberlain of the city of London have been presented to Parliament, and ordered to be printed for the information of the public. It appears that the total amount of monies received by the chamberlain of the city between the 6th of January, 1844, and the 25th of January, 1845 (being the produce and application of the several duties and payments constituting the fund called the "London-bridge Approaches Improvement Fund," for effecting public works and improvements in the metropolis), was 104,073*l.*, and the total concurrent payments, 36,279*l.*; leaving a surplus balance of 67,793*l.* Of the sums received, 88,817*l.* were derived from the duty of 8d. per ton on coals brought into the Port of London for one year, pursuant to the Acts of the 10th of George IV. and the 1st and 2nd of William IV.; 3,824*l.* from the duty on wine; 11,500*l.* from the annual charge on the revenue of the corporation; 219*l.* from the duties on admission to the freedom of the city; 82*l.* from the duties on the binding of apprentices; 190*l.* from the profits of aqueducts; and 68*l.* from a moiety of the profits of Farringdon-market for the year 1842.

ASSERTED ABUSES IN THE WESTMINSTER SEWERS' COMMISSION.

MR. JOHN LESLIE, one of the Commissioners of Sewers for Westminster, has just now published a pamphlet in the shape of a letter to the representative vestries under Sir John Hobhouse's vestry Act, charging the commission of which he is a member with extravagant expenditure and misconduct. When it is remembered that the taxation of nearly three millions of property rests in the hands of the Westminster commissioners,* and further that public health is involved, the question is seen to be one of considerable importance.

The writer sets out with the assertion that

"The active members comprehend a very considerable number of surveyors, district surveyors, and others engaged in building operations; and very frequently the painful exhibition is witnessed, of parties directly interested in the expenditure voting as commissioners on the questions."

He remarks that the contracts for the works in Westminster have been in the hands of two families since the year 1810, namely, the Messrs. Bird and the Messrs. Bennett (both highly respectable parties be it observed), and asserts that others had offered, in reply to public advertisements, to do the work at considerably lower prices, but had not been permitted to do so.

The sewers of the Holborn and Finsbury divisions the writer considers are under superior and more economical management.

"About thirty years ago, a double rate was put upon the inhabitants, and they rebelled. The present Mr. Sergeant Wilde and Mr. John Wilks of Finsbury headed the opposition to the then irresponsible commissioners, and certain clauses were framed in an Act of Parliament applicable to the Holborn and Finsbury commissioners, and of vast importance to the inhabitants. Similar clauses would save the rate-payers under the Westminster commissions thousands of pounds per annum.

The Act is the 54 Geo. 3, c. 219, passed the 25th July, 1814; and the advantageous clauses for the rate-payers to which I allude are as follows:—

The 18th section provides, that every commissioner interested either as principal, trustee, steward, agent, attorney, or solicitor, shall withdraw from the court, under a penalty not exceeding 100*l.*

The 23rd section requires that before the commissioners come to any determination as to the making any new sewer, the clerk must give twenty-one days' notice to the vestry-clerk of each parish, stating the place where it is intended to commence, pass, and terminate, and the time and place for holding the court, so that any party objecting may have the opportunity either personally or by his solicitor or counsel of doing so.

Section 24 provides that all work amounting to more than 50*l.*, including all materials used therein, shall be done by contract.

Section 26 requires fourteen days' notice of the meeting to make such contracts, to be twice inserted in three or more of the public newspapers, expressing the nature, objects, and conditions of such contracts.

Section 30 provides that the parochial authorities may peruse, make all extracts without fee or reward, from all books, papers, writings in the custody of the commissioners, or any person or persons holding office under them.

Section 31 requires the commissioners to make an annual account, to print the same, and send a copy, gratis, to every vestry-clerk; and every rate-payer to have a copy on payment of one shilling.

Mr. Leslie then goes on to shew the fruits of these checks on public expenditure.

* St. Marylebone	£784,780	St. Giles and St. George, Bloomsbury	£93,920
St George, Hanover-square	636,765	St. Clements Danes	78,992
St. Martin's-in-the-fields	210,736	St. Pancras	75,931
St. James, Westminster	209,253	St. Anne	65,910
St. Mary, Paddington	196,324	St. Paul, Covent-Garden	40,842
St. Margaret and St. John, Westminster	174,512	St. John, Hampstead	18,730
St. Mary Abbot, Kensington	160,870	All Saints, Fulham	16,964
St Luke, Chelsea	135,999	St. Mary-le-Strand	12,467
		Precincts of the Savoy	5,790
			£2,917,044

In the first return I find 19 large works ("Holborn and Finsbury") comprehending

First-class sewers	12,185 feet
Second-class sewers	15,531 "
Total	27,716

Including the following,

31 Side entrances,
81 Junctions with other sewers,
181 Gullies.
The private drains.
Repaving all the displaced carriage and footways.

And the total cost to the ratepayers was 21,224*l.* 6s. 9d.; now, dividing this sum by the 27,716 feet of sewer, *including all extras*, about 15s. 3½d. per foot.

Some of these works were of great importance. In the first class,

2,750 feet were 24 feet deep.
3,440 feet were 18 feet deep.
3,465 feet were tunnelled 26 feet deep.

This tunnelled work, including 5 side entrances, 12 junctions with other sewers, and 20 gullies, cost the rate-payers of the Holborn and Finsbury divisions of the metropolis, including every extra, 16s. 7½d. per foot.

I have a subsequent return, bringing down the works in the Holborn and Finsbury divisions to Midsummer, 1845, which shews that additional lengths of second sized sewers were put in to the extent of 4,915 feet, *including*

90 Private drains,
8 Side entrances,
27 Gullies,
29 Junctions with other sewers,
Repaving carriage and footways.

cost 3,681*l.* 3s. 5d., which divided by 4,915 feet of sewer gives 14s. 11d. per foot, including all the extras.

In the year ending Midsummer, 1845, there are two works of unusual expense. One is the main outlet of the drainage of 4,400 acres of surface, and which has been effected thus: at a depth of 23 feet 9 inches by a circle sewer 10 feet 3 inches in diameter in the clear, one and a half brick thick in blue lias mortar, the inner invert in malm paviors in cement blocks, 570 feet in length, and 30 feet similarly done, 8 feet in diameter. The expense of this to the rate-payers of the Holborn and Finsbury divisions was 1,667*l.*, or about 2*l.* 15s. 6d. per foot.

The other is a work of very great magnitude, being 4,350 of the first-class sewer, 27 feet deep, passing under the Regent's Canal, the traffic on which was not allowed to be stopped: there are 5 side entrances, 17 junctions to other sewers, 4,270 feet of private drains, 1,344 feet of gully-drains, and the cost is 6,250*l.*, about 28s. 9d. per foot. There will be a few extras of timber to be added, as the work is not finally closed.

I have now, my Lords and gentlemen, placed before you the details of an expenditure in the Holborn and Finsbury sewers of upwards of 33,000*l.*, under the very able management of that commission, and the economical checks which the rate-payers have effected in the Act of Parliament, to which I have called your attention; and now for the reverse of the picture, where no control has been obtained by the rate-payers in Westminster.

In the Westminster commission in 1844, the abstract of sewers and drains built, and of bills for works done in the same year, shew the following lengths of sewer built:—

2 feet wide	152 feet 3 inches in length.
2 feet 6 inches wide	2,685 feet 1 inch in length.
3 feet wide	1,792 feet 2 inches in length.
4 feet 6 inches wide	730 feet 5 inches in length.
Total	5,359 11

The cost of which, as stated, was 7,718*l.* 10s. 8½d., equal to within a mere fraction of a farthing of 29s. per foot; but there are no man-holes, or side-entrances, or repaving the carriage ways, and other items, in this large sum, equal at the most moderate calculation to 3s. per foot lineal in addition, making the total expense more than *double the rate of expenditure per foot lineal* in the Holborn and Finsbury commission.

Now, my Lords and Gentlemen, I will cite a few cases in your respective parishes. In George-court, St. James's, Piccadilly, 171 feet of second-size sewer, 13 feet 9 inches deep,

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